

Let Us Add Virtue to Our Faith  
(2 Peter 1:5-7)

Introduction:

1. In these verses 7 special characteristics ["the Christian graces"] are listed.
2. According to vs.5, we are to add these graces to our faith with "all diligence."
3. We learn from vs.8-11 why we must be so diligent in developing these graces.
  - a. We learn from vs.8 that those who do so receive a special blessing.
  - b. We learn further from vs.9 that those who fail to do so suffer from a vision problem as well as a memory problem.
  - c. We learn from vs.10-11 that those who develop the graces with all diligence gain another special blessing.
4. In our lesson we are concentrating on adding "virtue" to our faith.

Discussion:

- I. LET US FIRST DEFINE "VIRTUE"
  - A. In general, "virtue" is "moral goodness" [being morally good].
  - B. God's people are to be morally good, but "virtue" (2 Peter 1:5) goes further in that it involves "the courage and determination to do what is right."
  - C. In this sense, "virtue" was illustrated by:
    1. David (1 Samuel 17:40-49)
    2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3:13-18)
    3. Daniel (Daniel 6:10).
  - D. These illustrations of "virtue" help us appreciate the instructions given in Ephesians 6:10-13.
- II. LET US NEXT CONSIDER SEVERAL GENERAL PRINCIPLES THAT RELATE TO "VIRTUE"
  - A. Our actions show whether we possess "virtue" (Ruth 3:11).
  - B. Virtuous people are a blessing to others (Proverbs 12:4).
  - C. To grow in "virtue" we must think on the right things (Philippians 4:8).
- III. LET US EXAMINE HOW "VIRTUE" IS ADDRESSED IN PROVERBS 31
  - A. (vs.1-9) Lemuel's mother taught him to pursue "virtue."
    1. She taught him to practice "virtue" by:
      - a. forsaking sinful activities
      - b. pursuing righteous activities.
    2. Both would require courage and the determination to do what is right.
  - B. (vs.10-31) Lemuel's mother taught him to pursue "a woman of virtue."
    1. (vs.10) The value of a virtuous woman is "far above rubies."
    2. There are many reasons why she is so valuable.
      - a. She has a special relationship with her husband (vs.11-12, 23).
      - b. She is industrious and works willingly (vs.13-14, 16, 18-19, 24).
      - c. She is diligent in looking after the welfare of her family (vs.15, 21, 27).
      - d. She is strong, honorable, wise, and kind (vs.17, 22, 25-26).
      - e. She assists the needy (vs.20).
    3. Because she is so valuable, she deserves to be praised (vs.28-31).

Conclusion:

1. We are to give "all diligence" in developing "the Christian graces."
2. Faith is the foundation upon which we develop them.
3. To our faith we are to add "virtue" [courage, the determination to do what is right].
4. With "virtue" we will have the commitment necessary for adding the other graces.